

Application of: Ko-Pen Wang
Serial No.: 10/693,646
Filed: October 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a flexible outer tubular member having proximal and distal ends;

a flexible inner member slidably received within the flexible outer tubular member, the flexible inner member comprising a stylet adjacent the proximal end of the outer tubular member, a first spring section having proximal and distal ends and being oriented adjacent the distal end of the outer tubular member, and a second spring section coupled to the stylet and the proximal end of the first spring section so that the stylet extends through the second spring section and partially into the proximal end of the first spring section; and

a hollow needle member coupled to the distal end of the first spring section,

wherein the device has a retracted position wherein the needle member is retractably housed within the outer tubular member and the distal end of the device is flexible, a first ~~extended~~ position wherein the needle member is ~~at least partially deployed~~ beyond the distal end of the outer tubular member and the second spring section is in an uncompressed state ~~and the distal end of the device is less flexible than is achieved in the retracted position~~, and a second ~~extended~~ position wherein the second spring section is in a compressed state ~~and the distal end of the device is less flexible than in the first extended position~~.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a hard tip rigidly fixed to the distal end of the outer tubular member, the tip including a bearing surface on the proximal end thereof.

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3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the needle member includes a limiting member rigidly secured at a point along the length of the needle member and contacting the bearing surface of the tip member in the first and second extended positions.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, further comprising:
a locking member securing the inner member into a contacting relationship with the bearing surface to prevent retractable movement of the needle member when in the second extended position.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the first spring section comprises a first wavelength and the second spring section comprises a second wavelength greater than the first wavelength in the retracted and first extended positions.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the second spring section comprises a third wavelength in the second extended position, the third wavelength being less than the second wavelength.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further including a stop member positioned within the flexible outer tubular member to control the amount of retraction of the needle member.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 7, wherein the stop member comprises a crimped band.

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9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the second spring section forms an inner volume and the stylet occupies a portion of that inner volume passes therethrough.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the ~~first spring section forms an inner volume and the stylet extends into the hollow needle in the second position at least partially into the inner volume thereof in the retracted position.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the first spring section forms an inner volume and the stylet passes through the inner volume in the second ~~extended~~ position.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the stylet extends into the needle member in the second ~~extended~~ position.

13. (Currently Amended) A tissue collection device, comprising:
an elongated outer flexible hollow catheter having proximal and distal ends;
an elongated member having proximal and distal ends and being slidably
positioned within the hollow catheter and defining an axis along its length;

a helically wound wire member having proximal and distal ends and having its proximal end being coaxially attached to the elongated member adjacent the distal end thereof, wherein the helically wound wire member has a proximal region having a first wavelength, and a distal region having a second wavelength normally smaller than the first wavelength with the distal end of the elongated member extending through the

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proximal region and partially into the distal region when the elongated member is in a retracted condition ; and

a sampling member device attached to the distal end of the helically wound wire member.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the sampling member comprises a hollow needle.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the device has a first extended position wherein the sampling member extends beyond the distal end of the hollow catheter.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the device has a second extended position wherein the sampling member extends beyond the distal end of the hollow catheter and the proximal region has a compressed wavelength shorter than the first wavelength.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, further comprising:
a hard tip rigidly fixed to the distal end of the hollow catheter, the tip including a bearing surface on the proximal end thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the sampling device includes a limiting member rigidly associated therewith so that the limiting member contacts the bearing surface in the second extended position.

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19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the device has a retracted position in which the sampling member is housed within the hollow catheter.

20.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the device has a first extended position wherein the sampling member extends beyond the distal end of the hollow catheter and the distal end of the device has a first level of flexibility, and a second extended position wherein the proximal region has a compressed wavelength shorter than the first wavelength and the distal end of the device has a second level of flexibility that is more rigid than the first level of flexibility.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the elongated member extends into the sampling member in the second extended position.